



Giving Students the Edge

Our mission:

Career and Technical Education (CTE) creates pathways to success for every secondary student by providing him or her with the technical skills and academic knowledge needed to prepare for future employment and/or a successful transition to post-secondary education.

CTE provides students with technical training to prepare for a successful career. The structured training each student receives gives him or her the tools needed to be successful in a job after high school and/or further his or her post-secondary education, whether technical school, two-year college, or four-year college. Each student is encouraged to explore various areas of study and to develop the essential skills to enter today's competitive job market with confidence.

Career and Technical Education is an essential component of the total educational system in Utah and is critical to the country's ability to compete in a global economy. CTE is provided in a variety of settings from grades 7-12 and in post-secondary institutions.

The **role** of Career and Technical Education is to:

- Provide career and technical education in the state's K-12 system of public education.
- Introduce students to career options.
- Assist in development of career choices.
- Provide technical skills.
- Provide occupation-specific skills.
- Prepare students for further education and training through Pathways.

CTE provides **courses and programs** consistent with industry standards. Courses begin in the 7th grade with the exploratory CTE Intro course. Subsequent courses in grades 8-12 teach students specific job readiness and job skills, which can lead to employment and post-secondary education.

CTE programs are offered in:

- All 40 school districts.
- All 141 middle schools.
- All 109 high schools, with over 131,000 students participating in CTE training in grades 9-12.



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Pathways

A Pathway is a **sequence of courses within a students area of interest**. CTE has 62 Pathways within eight areas of study where students can investigate a wide range of career choices. Pathways make it easier for students to understand the relevance of required courses and select elective courses more wisely.

Through participation in Pathways, students can maximize their opportunities by taking **concurrent enrollment** courses that will connect to post-secondary education, saving time and money toward a certificate or college degree.

Areas of Study

- Agricultural Education
- Business Education
- Family and Consumer Sciences Education
- Health Science and Technology Education
- Information Technology Education
- Marketing Education
- Skilled and Technical Sciences Education
- Technology and Engineering Education

Utah's Comprehensive Counseling and Guidance Program assists students and their parents in the development of a Student Education Occupation Plan (SEOP). The guidance program enables students to:

- Explore career possibilities.
- Expand their opportunities and plan for education and career goals.

Utah's CTE Intro Program provides students with the direction, decision-making skills, and planning needed in order to select their career path, including:

- Self-knowledge.
- Education and occupation exploration.
- Career planning.

Utah's Work-Based Learning Program narrows the gap between theory and practice. Students have opportunities to see how classroom instruction connects to the world of work and future career opportunities through Work-Based Learning activities, including:

- Internships/apprenticeships.
- Job shadowing.
- Career fairs/guest speakers.
- Field studies.
- Clinical work experiences.
- Cooperative work experiences.

Is there any proof CTE works?

Yes.

- Students who take two or more CTE courses are less likely to drop out of high school.
- High school CTE programs prepare students for the many high-paying, high-tech jobs requiring less than a bachelor's degree.

Our vision is to see that every student has the opportunity to explore a variety of career areas, throughout high school, that will equip him or her with the academic knowledge and technical and employment skills vital for entry into the evolving workforce of the 21st century.

For more information visit:

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